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**DOCUMENTS RELATING TO A PROPOSED  
SWISS AND GERMAN COLONY IN THE  
WESTERN PART OF VIRGINIA**

(Concluded)

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PETITION OF STAUBER AND OTHERS.

To the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of Trade  
and Plantations

The humble Petition of Jacob Stauber, John Ochs, Ezekiel  
Harlan and Thomas Gould

Sheweth

That the said Jacob Stauber and Ezekiel Harlan having  
lived upwards of twenty Years in Pensilvenia, following Hus-  
bandry of which they have a perfect understanding, and also  
are well acquainted with the nature of the land in those parts,  
and what it is most capable of producing.

That the said Jacob Stauber hath lately taken a Journey into  
Virginia on purpose to make a search after some uninhabited  
Land behind the Mountains of that Province, which are about  
thirty Miles over, and but one place fit to make a road, after  
he had passed these Mountains with much pains, great diffi-  
culty and hazard of Life without any Company or seeing any  
Indian in all his Travells, he spent three Months time to View  
the Soyl and Situation of the Land dying Westward to the  
said Mountains towards Missisipy River, which Land he found  
to be good Pasture Ground fitt for planting of Vineyards on  
the side of the Mountains and a very good Soyle for Hemp,  
Flax, and all sorts of Grain, a proper climate to produce Silk  
and a good prospect to make Salt Petre, and Potash. Your  
Lordships are doubtless fully perswaded that it will be of  
great importance to the Crown and Interest of the Nation  
that these Dominions may be enlarged beyond the Mountains  
to the West for the following Considerations.

1<sup>st</sup> If it is neglected to extend the bounds of Great Britain beyond these Mountains to the West, it is probable that the French in a short time may take possession thereof and if so the English Nation will Loose this fine opportunity.

2<sup>nd</sup> In Settling a Colony beyond these Mountains extending as far as the River Missisipy, the French Settlements of Missisipy and Canada would thereby be prevented to Join together, as there Intention is, (So to doe) which will be of great Prejudice to this Kingdom

3<sup>rd</sup> The Strength of the Subjects of this Kingdom in America would be considerably encreased by carrying over a great number of Germans and Swiss Protestants who will be Chiefly such as can provide for themselves at their own Charge, which are alsoe reputed to be a good Militia.

4 This Colony would be obliged to apply themselves chiefly by reason of the distant Land Carriage upon such productions as are very much desired in this Kingdom Viz<sup>t</sup> Hemp, Flax, Silk, Potash, Salt Petre with other valuable Commodities in which the Germans and Swissers are particularly skilled in, (Except the Silk) the expectation of which Commodities from other Colonies hath hitherto not answered, it would also considerably Augment our Trade by consuming a good quantity of the Manufactures of this Kingdom and employ more Shipping

In Consideration of these Advantages, if Your Lordships would be pleased to approve off y<sup>e</sup> same and influence that the Government would be graciously pleased to grant a Joint Patent of a Free Grant for the following Tract of Land to your Petitioners and their Heirs for ever, to begin at the double Top Mountain<sup>4</sup> by Hawks Bill Creek including the Mountains through which the road is to be made, to go thence Northwards in a line to the Borders of Pensilvania and behind the same, to make the whole breadth 200 Miles, thence in a Straight West line to the River Missisipy in length for the North side, and a Straight West Line from the double Top Mountain to the said River for the South side.

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<sup>4</sup> The two headed mountains here mentioned were Stony Man and the Hawksbill in the present county of Page, Virginia. They are among the highest summits of the Blue Ridge in Virginia.

That your Petitioners offer to undertake by the blessing of God the Settlement of this Colony without any Charge to the Government, notwithstanding the great difficultys that attend it, which hitherto neither the Inhabitants of Virginia nor any Person have attempted to undertake by reason of the difficulty of the Passage and the apprehensions of being so farr seperated from Virginia by the Mountains, alsoe the great Expences of making a Road 30 Miles long through the Mountains, which will be a Charge of some Thousands of pounds where about half a Mile the same must be Cutt in a Rock to make it passable, and the trouble of bringing the People Eighty Miles from the Navigable River to the Place of Settlement, And for the Security against the Indians, wee will purchase the Land and friendship of them with considerable presents whereby they will not only be peaceable Neighbours but assist us against any distant Indians that may be induced to disturb us in our Settlement.

That Your Pet<sup>rs</sup> intend alsoe to Settle themselves at the begining in the Colony, and to use their utmost endeavours to Support the same by their presence that it may be Established, secured and Encreased with as much Expedition as possible, but being so far seperated from Virginia by the Mountains, tis humbly desired that it may be a seperate Colony and Government under the name of Georgia.

That your Pet<sup>r</sup> Jacob Stauber humbly beggs leave to lay before Your Lordships that he hath Employed much time and Expences in searching out this Land and making a Voyage hither and is here at Expences to Stay only for Your Lordships resolution.

Therefore his humble desire is to know the same as soon as it may conveniently be without long delay for if it be approved of by Your Lordships, he intends to go without delay to Germany and Swisserland to gett people ready and goe from thence with them to Virginia.

All which is Submitted to Your Lordships wise Judgment and Approbation.

Endorsed:—

Virginia. The humble Petition of Jacob Stauber, John Ocks, Ezekiel Harlaw and Thomas Gould concerning a Colony on the Backside of Virginia

Rec<sup>d</sup> }  
 Read }  
 March 30<sup>th</sup> 1731.

R: 138.

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PETITION OF STAUBER AND OTHERS.

Record Office, London. B. T. Virginia. Vol. 19. R. 140.

To the Right Hon<sup>ble</sup> The Lords Commiss<sup>rs</sup> for Trade and Plantations.

May it Please your Lordships

Wee being well apprised of Sir William Keith's knowledge in all the Affairs of America and of the respect the Germans already settled in those Parts as well as the Indians bear to the name and charracter of that Gentleman If it should (as wee humbly hope by your Lordships favour it will) be his Majestys pleasure To Grant the Tract of Land which has been Proposed in our former Petition to your Lordships, and wee having obtained Sir W<sup>m</sup> Keith's consent Doe Humbly Move that the said Sir W<sup>m</sup> Keith bar<sup>t</sup> may be first named along with us in any such Pattent or Grant from the Crown, hoping that his assistance may be of great use to the Publick as well as to may it Please your Lordships

Yours Lordships very Humble and most Obedient Servants

Tho: Gould [autogr.  
 Jacob Stauber ( " )  
 John Ochs ( " )  
 Ezekiel Harlan ( " )]

April 8<sup>th</sup> 1731

[Endorsed]

Virginia

Mem<sup>l</sup> from Mr. Stauber and others concern'd in the Pet<sup>n</sup> for a Tract of Land behind y<sup>e</sup> Great Mountains, desiring S<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Keith may be first-nam'd the propos'd Patent.

Rec<sup>d</sup> April 9<sup>th</sup> }  
Read May 11<sup>th</sup> }  
1731

R: 140.